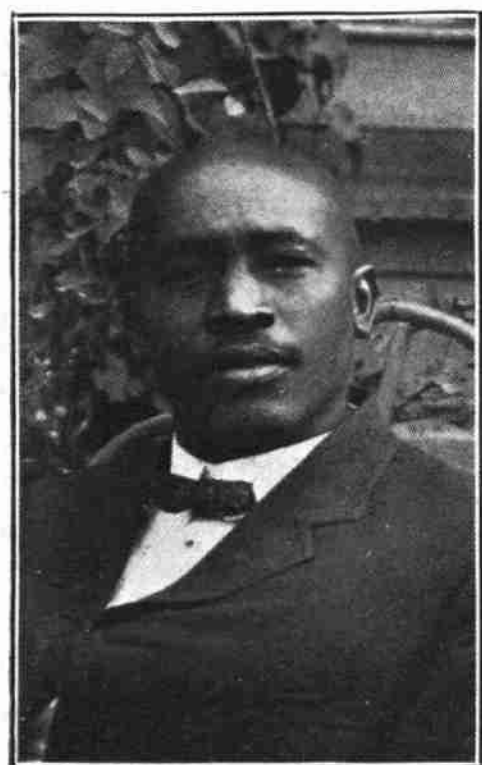


## Charles Banks

Alcorn, Miss.

MR. BANKS is cashier of the Bank of Mound Bayou and first vice-president of the National Negro Business League. He owns the controlling interest in the bank, and has considerable property in the city, and also large farm holdings.



Charles Banks

He was born at Clarksdale, Miss., March 25, 1873. Educated in the public schools and at Rust University, Holly Springs, Miss. He was engaged in a mercantile business in Clarksdale from 1889 to 1903. In 1904 he made his home in Mound Bayou and organized the Bank of Mound Bayou, which is capitalized for \$100,000. He organized the Mississippi Business League in 1905, and has been its only president.

In 1901 he was elected third vice-president of the National Negro Business League, and in 1907 was elected first vice-president. He is a prominent member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and since 1896 has been a member of its general conferences. In 1907 he organized the Mound Bayou Oil Mill and Manufacturing Company. It is the only manufactory of such proportion owned by the race in America, and will cost, when completed, nearly \$100,000. He organized, in 1906, the Mound Bayou Land and Investment Company, with a capital of \$50,000, which has for its aim the keeping of the farm lands in and around Mound Bayou in the ownership of the Negro.

Mr. Banks has been very active in political life. He was "the original Taft supporter" in Mississippi, and at the Chicago convention was the choice of the Negroes to second the nomination of Mr. Taft. He had charge of the recent tour of Dr. Booker T. Washington through Mississippi, which was considered by many to be the most elaborate demonstration ever given the distinguished educator.

Mr. Banks is a business man of high character, and a public speaker of unusual talent. His wife, who has contributed so largely to his progress, is a woman of character and culture, and deservedly takes a position of leadership among the women of her race in Mississippi.

## Hon. William T. Vernon

Washington, D. C.

MR. VERNON is Register of the U. S. Treasury. He was born in Lebanon, Mo., July 11, 1871. His parents had been slaves. He remained in the public schools until he was fifteen years of age, when he entered Lincoln University, at Jefferson City, Mo.,



Hon. William T. Vernon

graduating in 1890 as valedictorian in his class, and class orator.

After teaching for six years he was placed in charge of Western University at Quindaro, Kan., an institution which at that time had one small building and less than 12 students, he being the only teacher. He remained at Quindaro for ten years, during which time he received appropriations from the state of Kansas, which have grown, until, with recent sums granted, they have increased to a million dollars in addition to other donations and collec-

tions. The institution now has thirteen acres of land, five large buildings, 20 teachers, and nearly 400 students.

Mr. Vernon has been active in religious affairs among his people as well as prominent in political life. When he was appointed Register of the Treasury by President Roosevelt, he was reelected president of Western University and granted leave of absence while serving as Register of the Treasury.

He is trustee of Western University and of Wilberforce University, Ohio. He has been a delegate to three General Conferences of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Lincoln University gave him the degree of A.M., and Wilberforce honored him with the degrees of D.D. and LL.D.

Though occupying the position of Register of the Treasury, said to be the most representative position occupied by any colored man in the federal government, and with a busy career as a publicist, he has kept in close touch with his church, ranking among the leaders of his denomination. He was married in 1901 to Miss Emily, daughter of Bishop Embry.

In writing concerning the work represented by this book, he said, "I assure you that I deeply appreciate the effort you are making in behalf of our people, North and South, and shall be pleased to render any service possible."